



August 1, 2017

From the Conference Minister

These past couple of weeks have been full of my traveling to a number of our congregations joining in some wonderful celebrations of faith and faithfulness. I joined Pilgrim UCC in Chattanooga to install their pastor, Scott Williamson; I joined Pilgrimage UCC in Marietta as they plan their celebration of 20 years being an Open and Affirming congregation; I helped ordain Larry Gipson to the Christian Ministry at Kirkwood UCC in Atlanta.



I love this part of my ministry. I have the privilege to join with you as you celebrate, but also as you struggle. For all of these celebrations, I also meet with congregations as they discern their future, form search committees, and struggle to stay faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ as things change. I love this ministry. I'm beginning to learn the roads that have less traffic. Invite me to come and be with your congregation. It is such a blessing to journey with you.

Blessings,
Marie

News from Around the Conference



Needed: Two Conference Coordinators for "3 Great Loves" Initiative

During General Synod in Baltimore, the UCC announced the "3 Great Loves" initiative. This initiative will lift up the UCC's historic and current love of neighbor, love of creation and love of children.



Next Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives Grants Open September 18

Starting Monday September 18 thru Tuesday October 31, 2017, the *Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives* application process will be open for accepting applications. If you have a project in your church that meets the criteria of

is seeking two volunteers to serve as conference coordinators for the UCC's "3 Great Loves" initiative. [All the details are available on our website.](#)

Please contact Marie Bacchiocchi at mbacchiocchi@secucc.org if you're interested in serving.

furthering the mission or ministry in your community, send in an application. Awards are reviewed and awarded for up to \$5,000.00 in November.

If you have any questions, please email Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator at dspearman@secucc.org.



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2017. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2017 prayer list.](#)

Week of August 6

- UnityUCC; Montgomery, Alabama
- Marsha Brown
- Kathryn Hawk
- Lewis Kola
- Robert Rezash
- Sonya Gravlee

Week of August 13

- First Congregational UCC; Savannah, Georgia
- Mary Brueggemann
- Rose Hermonat
- Derrick Rice
- George Thomas

Conference Transitions

- **Marsha Brown** was ordained and installed at Phoenix Christian Church in Wildersville, Tennessee. [View photos on our website.](#)
- **Larry Gipson** was ordained at Kirkwood UCC in Atlanta. He has accepted a position as associate minister at Old South Union Church in Weymouth, Mass. [View photos on our website.](#)
- **Scott Williamson** was installed as Senior Pastor at Pilgrim UCC in Chattanooga.

News from our Local Churches



Atlanta UCC Pastor Completes



Transgender Pride Flag

Ironman Competition while Raising \$36K for Charity

UCC pastor and chaplain Katie O'Dunne Kilpatrick, her husband Sean (also a pastor), and her father Peter all recently completed the Ironman Competition in Lake Placid, New York. Between the three of them they raised over \$36,000 for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, a cause close to their heart as Katie's mother has this cancer.

Triathlon has always been a spiritual practice for her, especially the intersection of spirituality and endurance athletics. [Read her reflection on our website.](#)

Designed by Member of Pilgrimage UCC in Marietta, GA

Monica Helms created the flag in 1999 after serving in the US military for eight years. Helms is both a proud Navy veteran and a proud transgender woman. She is also the creator of the original pink, white and blue transgender pride flag. Even better, **she's a member of Pilgrimage UCC in Marietta, Georgia!**

Following the President's tweets about transgender people serving in the armed forces, Monica has shared her story with media locally and around the globe. [Learn more on our website.](#)

Learning and Training Opportunities

PATHWAYS is pleased to announce their Fall 2017 course offerings

EXPLORE - Explorer Courses

- Singing the Bible (Aug 23-Sep 19)
- What about the Bible (Oct 4-31)
- ADVENT: A Spiritual Journey (Nov 22-Dec 19)

LEARN - Level One: Foundational Courses

Participants may take one or more courses or complete the entire Level One program. The ten Foundational Courses provide a two-year opportunity to explore the basics of theology.

UCC History & Polity

PATHWAYS offers a unique opportunity for MID's and those seeking Privilege of Call: an online polity course.

Visit the PATHWAYS website for details: <https://www.pathways-ucc.org/courses/>



Dance and Mime Intensive at Community Congregational

All dancers or aspiring dancers aged 8-18 are invited to participate in this FREE three-day immersion /training experience geared toward movement artist. [Learn more about this opportunity at their Facebook event.](#)

UCC Southern Region Women's Retreat Registration

Registration is now open for the women's retreat, held this year at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas. [Learn more about this enriching](#)

[opportunity on our website.](#)



Job Opportunities

Part time Youth Minister

Open Community United Church of Christ (OCUCC) is in search of a part time Youth Minister for its children and youths. OCUCC is looking for someone who loves children and youths, has experience in children's ministry, is committed for daily devotion and prayer, and has evangelical and reformed faith background. Please submit a resume, confession of faith, and two recommendations from church leaders including the pastor or the senior pastor of the church that you are currently attending. You may mail them to Open Community United Church of Christ, 2676 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 or send via email to the address below. You may direct your questions to 678-670-6930 or 678-760-1975 or oc.youth.minister@gmail.com.

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